

Message Text

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PAGE 01 JOHANN 00670 061455Z

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SUBJECT: SOUTH WEST AFRICA MINERAL ACTIVITIES

FOR BUREAU OF MINES-NAHAI/JOLLY

1. HIGHLIGHTS OF MURCHISON TRIP TELEGRAPHED HERewith AS DETAILED AIRGRAM UNLIKELY REACH WASHINGTON BEFORE YEARBOOK DEADLINE. WINDHOEK OFFICIALS VERY COOPERATIVE BUT NO PRODUCTION STATISTICS AVAILABLE FOR PUBLICATION. INFORMATION HEREIN OBTAINED LARGELY BY DIRECT CONTACT AT MINES AND EXPLORATION OFFICES.

2. COPPER:- SIXTEEN DEGREE INCLINED PROSPECT WINZE COMPLETED TO 60 METERS AT OTJIHASE COPPER DEPOSIT, 16 KILOMETERS NORTHEAST OF WINDHOEK. PROVED RESERVES TOTAL 16 MILLION METRIC TONS AT TWO PERCENT COPPER WITH MINOR AMOUNTS OF GOLD, SILVER AND ZINC. ORE BODY VARIES FROM ONE TO FIVE METERS IN WIDTH AND OCCURS IN THE SOUTHWEST-NORTHEAST STRIKING AMPHIBOLITE BELT WHICH INCLUDES THE RECENTLY RE-OPENED MATCHLESS MINE. OWNERS, J.C.I. 52,5 PERCENT AND MINERTS (OWNED OQUALLY BY FEDMAR AND CONTINENTAL ORE) 47,5 PERCENT, PLAN AN INVESTMENT OF R20 MILLION FOR MID-1975 OPERATION MILLING 100 000 METRIC TONS MONTHLY AT AN ESTIMATED COST OF R8,50 PER TON. ROOM AND PILLAR MINING WILL BE LABOR INTENSIVE ESTIMATED AT 200 WHITES, 500 COLOURED(S) (BASTARS) AND HERERO ARTIZANS AND 2000 OVAMBOS. DIAMOND DRILLING BY RIO TINTO, WEST OF THE HAIB RIVER AND NORTHEAST OF VIOOLSDRIFT, HAS PROVED LARGE CARBONATITE ORE BODY. NO UNCLASSIFIED

UNCLASSIFIED

PAGE 02 JOHANN 00670 061455Z

AVAILABLE DATA ON GRADE OR TONNAGE. O'OKIEP EXPLORATION

PARTY, OPERATING NEAR KUMS IN SOUTHEAST ABOUT 25 KILOMETERS WEST OF BORDER WITH REPUBLIC, REPORTS FINDING LARGE LOW-GRADE COPPER ORE BODY. RECORDS IN COMMISSIONER OF MINES OFFICE WINDHOEK INDICATE NAVAROO (ZAPATA-NORNESS) OWNED ONGANYA MINE HAS BEEN OFFERED FOR SALE. SEVERAL UNAMED U.S. AND SOUTH AFRICAN COMPANIES REPORTED NEGOTIATING FOR PURCHASE AS PRODUCTION RECORDS INDICATE EXCELLENT POTENTIAL AS COPPER PRODUCER.

3. LEAD, ZINC AND VANADIUM:- BERG AUKAS 1972 OUTPUT: LEAD VANADAT 5 571 METRIC TONS 16,96 PERCENT V₂O₅, 42,1 PERCENT PB, 18,5 PERCENT ZN. ZINC SULPHIDE 10 268 METRIC TONS 3.3 PERCENT PB, 54,2 PERCENT ZN. LEAD SULPHIDE 821 METRIC TONS 44,4 PERCENT PB, 23,2 PERCENT ZN. ZINC SILICATE 23 692 METRIC TONS 2,4 PERCENT PB, 46,5 PERCENT ZN. MILL DELIVERY WAS 13,5 PERCENT LOWER THAN 1971 LARGELY DUE TO DECEMBER 1971 STRIKE WHICH AFFECTED PRODUCTION UNTIL APRIL 1972. ORE RESERVES NOW TOTAL 1,6 MILLION METRIC TONS GRADING 0/5 PERCENT V₂O₅, 5,0 PERCENT PB, 19 PERCENT ZN. ROSH PINAH 1972 PRODUCTION RATE WAS 2 767 METRIC TONS OF CONCENTRATES GRADING 59 PERCENT ZINC METAL PER MONTH FROM 42 500 METRIC TONS OF ORE. NEW OPEN PIT MINE WILL START IN NOVEMBER 1973 INCREASING MONTHLY MILL DELIVERY TO 100 000 TONS ORE OF 8 PERCENT ZN AND 2 PERCENT PB.

4. TIN AND WOLFRAM:- BRANDBERG WEST (SWACO) MILLED 109 500 METRIC TONS OF ORE IN 1972 AND PRODUCED 635 METRIC TONS OF CONCENTRATES 33,58 PERCENT SN AND 17,66 PERCENT WO₃. MINE WAS ALSO AFFECTED BY THE DECEMBER STRIKE AND FALLOFF IN GRADE OF ORE. LOW GRADE STOCKPILE WAS DEPLETED DURING STRIKE PERIOD. ORE RESERVES NOW ESTIMATED AT 6,14 MILLION METRIC TONS AT 0,153 PERCENT SN AND 0,079 PERCENT WO₃.

5. DIAMOND:- C.D.M. PRODUCED 1 596 144 CARATS FROM THE ALLUVIAL WORKINGS IN DIAMOND AREA NO. 1. DURING 1972. AVERAGE STONE SIZE WAS 0,88 CARATS. SAMPLING IN THE WESTERN BLICK HAS PROVED CONSIDERABLE ADDITIONAL RESERVES. C.D.M. RENEWED THE MARINE DIAMOND CORP. MINING AND EXPLORATION LEASE THROUGH 1973. OFFSHORE EXPLORATION BY "ROCKEATER" HAS EXTENDED INTO DEEP WATER AREA. MARINE DIAMOND'S FORESHORE UNCLASSIFIED

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PAGE 03 JOHANN 00670 061455Z

AREAS PROVED THREE YEARS OF MINEABLE RESERVES, BUT C.D.M. SUSPENDED OPERATIONS DUE TO OVERSUPPLY OF MEDIUM GRADE STONES.

6. PETROLEUM:- GEOPHYSICAL SERVICES INC. SURVEY BOAT "NANCHES", OPERATING OUT OF LUDERITZ, REPORTS FAVORABLE SEISMIC DATA INTERPRETATION IN CONCESSION AREAS 12 AND 13 (BETWEEN ORANJEMUND AND LUDERITZ). CHEVRON-TEXACO, CONCESSION HOLDERS, WILL PROBABLY DRILL AN OFFSHORE TEST BEFORE YEAREND.

7. GENERAL:- SOUTH WEST AFRICA EXPERIENCING BOOM IN MINERAL EXPLORATION. RECORD NUMBER OF PROSPECTING RIGHTS ISSUED IN 1972 BY COMMISSIONER OF MINES OFFICE. GREATEST INTEREST CENTERS ON WINDHOEK, REHOBOTH AND EXTREME SOUTHEAST AREA (BETWEEN LINE ROSH PINAH-KARASBURG-NAKOP AND ORANGE RIVER). PRIME TARGETS ARE COPPER, LEAD, ZINC BUT RIGHTS INCLUDE ALL BASE MINERALS. MINE OFFICIALS REPORT GENERAL SATISFACTION WITH NEW RECRUITING SYSTEM. CONSIDERABLE INCREASE IN NUMBER OF "COLOURED" (INCLUDING BASTERS) EMPLOYEES RESULTED FROM DECEMBER STRIKE.
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